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PRIVATE MEETINGS

A PRIVATE meeting of the Society will be held in the Library, 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 on

MONDAY, 10 JANUARY 1949, AT 6.30 P.M.

when a lecture on PERSONALITY TESTS IN PSYCHICAL RESEARCH will be given by DR R. H. THOULESS.

Another private meeting will be addressed by DR THOULESS on

FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY 1949, AT 6.30 P.M.

when he will give an account of his recent visit to the Parapsychology Department of Duke University.

THE 'HAUNTED' DANCE HALL

By D. J. WEST

FROM time to time the Society is called upon by members of the public to investigate supposed hauntings ; but paranormal phenomena are rarely discovered in connection with them, and so reports are not published in the *Journal*. This case is unexceptional in failing to provide evidence for the paranormal, but an account of it may be of interest as an unusually clear illustration of several of the psychological factors which give these haunting stories their extraordinarily persistent and recurrent character.

The names of persons and places have been altered for the purposes of this report, but the real names and original statements are, of course, preserved in the Society's files. In the first instance the place was visited and the people interviewed by the Research Officer, accompanied by Mr J. F. Nicol, who kindly acted as notetaker. A second visit was paid by Mr Chesters, a member of the Society, and some months later a further investigation was carried out by members of the Manchester Psychical Research Institute. The conclusions of all these investigators were substantially the same. In particular, all were agreed that the phenomena were not due to any supernormal cause, but that neither were they produced by deliberate fraud. The people who experienced the haunting were obviously suffering from its effects. They seemed genuinely frightened and anxious to be rid of it.

The case opened on the evening of January 28th, 1948, when Mrs *Brown* and Mr *Poole* called upon the Research Officer to seek advice. They were respectively proprietress and manager of a dance hall in *Ashton* (a town in the north of England) which was losing money on account of what they believed to be a haunt. Mrs *Brown*, and a partner of hers, Mr *Owen*, had bought the business in April 1947 from a man who also owned some cinemas. It seemed to them a promising concern, and some policemen whom Mrs *Brown* consulted told her that there was no reason why the place should not pay well.

Ever since Mrs *Brown* took over there had been a long chain of mishaps. The microphone, the amplifier, the lights, the geyser, the electric clock, in fact every bit of the installation that could possibly break down was doing so repeatedly, and for no apparent reason. Things were continually getting lost or broken. The doors had holes in them where the plywood panels had been stove in with heavy blows. Several chairs and tables had been smashed. Money and small articles were always disappearing. Two tickets for a police ball were taken from the pocket of Mr *Poole*'s coat as it hung in the office. On one occasion Mrs *Brown* and her partner, Mr *Owen*, both counted some money and put it in a sealed envelope in the till. When Mrs *Brown* opened the envelope, which was still sealed, a pound was missing. Money was even taken from boys who had volunteered to help in the cloakroom. A young man called *Bob*, who had worked for Mrs *Brown* a long time and never been known to steal anything, ran away without explanation, taking seven pounds with him. It was as if there were a hoodoo on the place and nothing would go right.

For a long time Mrs *Brown* never supposed her troubles were anything more than an extraordinary run of bad luck due to normal causes. Sometimes she thought there might be someone trying to sabotage the undertaking. About a month after they arrived, however, an accident happened which set Mrs *Brown* thinking. The lights of the main hall had shades which each contained five glass panels. During a dance one evening, one of these glass panels fell down and nearly hit four dancers who were passing underneath. She got the firm who had fixed the lights to remove all the other glass panels. The workmen expressed surprise, because all the other panels were firmly fixed and could not possibly fall. Mr *Poole* said they had told him there must be a saboteur at work, as the glass panel could not possibly have fallen unless it had been tampered with. This was impossible, as the shade could not have been interfered with unless it had been lowered to the ground, and there was no opportunity for anyone to do that.

In May 1947 a more serious accident happened. Part of the ceiling of the dance hall is made of glass, and above it is a loft. During a dance the ceiling began to leak, and Mr *Poole*, the manager, and Mr *Owen* went up into the loft to put it right. Mr *Poole* accidentally stepped on to one of the glass panels in the roof and fell through. He managed to grasp one of the beams and held on swinging for some minutes until Mr *Roberts* and other members of the band got up to the loft and hauled him back again. Mr *Poole* said he was sitting regaining his breath when Mr *Owen* recrossed the roof in order to come down. He, too, stepped on the glass, fell right through on to the dance floor and hurt himself badly. He was conscious, but had to be carried off to hospital where he stayed twenty weeks. His pelvis was fractured, his right arm broken and he had failed to recover the use of his right hand. Mrs *Brown* was very shocked by this accident. 'I never thought of the supernatural at the time,' she said, 'the horror of the accident was so great. We took him to the hospital and gave the people back their money.'

At this stage Mrs *Brown* asked Mr *Poole* if he thought there were something very queer going on. Mr *Poole* then confided that he thought the place was haunted. Mrs *Brown* had always returned home to sleep, but for the first five weeks Mr *Poole* slept in the hall, although he had lodgings in the town. He said he did this because he felt sure there was something going on. He expected to catch someone breaking in, but he never did. After a week or two he realised that the happenings were supernatural. At first Mrs *Brown* laughed at him and told him not to be silly, but Mr *Poole* stuck to the idea. He said he was not a man to be frightened of nothing. He had served in the Forces for six years during the war, in Iceland, Burma and elsewhere. He was thirty years of age, and had been a wrestler.

The experiences which Mr *Poole* related to Mrs *Brown* and repeated for our benefit were of several kinds. First there were noises. He slept in a little cubby-hole known as the band-room, underneath the balcony. Practically every night he was kept awake from about 1 a.m. until 5 by inexplicable sounds, as of doors banging, footsteps walking across the hall or on the balcony above him. The place was always locked up, and when he shone a torch there was never anyone there.

Second, there were apparent physical movements. The band-room was

fitted up as a cloakroom, with a gap in one wall which could be closed by a detachable shutter clipped in place with wing-nuts. One night he put this shutter up as usual, but was disturbed at about 2.30 a.m. by a slight noise. Switching on a torch and pointing it in the direction of the noise, he was just in time to see the wooden shutter coming to rest slowly on the floor into a position propped up against the wall beneath the gap, as if it had been detached and placed there by an invisible hand. On another occasion Mr Poole was walking in the dark down the stairs to the cloak-room. At the head of the stairs was a door kept shut by a spring. He walked through this doorway unthinkingly, and as he was passing he felt the pressure of the door swinging back to close after him. Then he realised that he had not pushed the door open at all. It must have been pushed open for him as he approached. He fled.

Lastly, there were the faces which could be seen when he looked through the gaps in the ceiling to the loft above. The faces were often there but he did not recognise them. One particular face looked like a judge, his hand shaking as if remonstrating, and surrounded by a crowd of people. Mr Poole also said there were queer faces in the mirrors in the hall, and there was a horrible atmosphere about the place which he could feel.

Mrs Brown said that when she heard all these stories of Mr Poole's she was inclined to scoff, but she decided to stay in the place with him one night to see if she could experience anything herself. She brought with her a friend, Mrs Field, a lady who had at times helped with the work at the dance hall. They heard nothing unusual and fell asleep. Mrs Field was awakened by a noise like someone treading a machine, and she saw a light go on in the main hall. In the morning Mrs Brown, who had heard nothing, made light of the whole affair, but when she went out into the main hall she had a shock. A crucifix appeared in the wall. She called out 'Oh glory be! Look at that'. Mr Poole and Mrs Field both came to her and both of them saw the crucifix. Mr Poole cried out, 'That's nothing, there's another one', and they all saw a second cross. Gradually the crosses faded away before their eyes. This experience convinced Mrs Brown that the place was haunted. After that both she and Mrs Field did see from time to time the faces in the shadows of the rafters just as Mr Poole had described them. Matters went from bad to worse. The mis-haps continued. People stopped coming and the business lost money. Mrs Field and Mrs Brown both felt oppressed by a malignant atmosphere. Mr Poole said he tried in vain to fight against the evil influence which seemed to pervade the place.

This, in outline, was the story told to the investigators. The first task was to see if corroboration could be found for the idea that the hall was haunted. Mrs Brown was asked if any other people believed in the ghost. She said that for fear of an adverse effect upon the business they had avoided discussing the matter with outsiders, but they had reason to believe other people knew about it. At one time the hall had been used as a religious meeting place, and she supposed it possible that spirits who had associations with it at that time might disapprove of its use for dancing. A Mrs Southern (1), who lived at a neighbouring inn, had remarked to Mrs Brown that the place was haunted. The bandsman, Mr Jack

Roberts (2) had remarked to Mr *Poole* that there was 'something' in the loft. He subsequently ceased coming to play there, and Mrs *Brown* supposed it was because he did not like the awful atmosphere of the place. She made enquiries and found that there had been four changes of ownership in the last five years. No one could stick it. Miss *Dale* (3), secretary to the former owner, said that when her brother-in-law, who was manager, slept in the place, he and his wife heard footsteps at night. A young girl who came frequently to the dances, known to them only by the name *Margaret* (4), ran up to Mr *Poole* in fear one night, saying she had seen an apparition on the piano and the hall must be haunted.

At one stage Mr *Poole*, at Mrs *Brown's* suggestion, sought the aid of a Catholic priest (5), asking him to come and bless the building. At first the priest was disinclined to do so, but after consulting the canon, he came.

Mr *Poole* said that *Bob* (6) (the boy who had run away with the money) had stayed one night with him in the hall, but was so frightened by ghostly noises that he ran away and wouldn't come again.

Here, then, was quite an array of witnesses, but when they were consulted by the investigators, a very different picture came to light.

(1) Miss *Southern*, asked if she thought the place was haunted, said 'Yes'. Asked her reasons, she said she didn't really know, she just felt it; she supposed she must be psychic.

(2) Mr *Jack Roberts* did not reply to a letter of enquiry, but his mother was interviewed. She stated that his reason for ceasing to attend at the hall was that it was bad policy for a bandsman to play when there was a poor attendance. She remarked that he used to bring his things home each night because nothing was safe in the hall on account of the petty pilfering and sabotage that was always going on.

(3) Miss *Dale*, in a letter to the Research Officer, wrote: 'Your information regarding my noticing any unusual occurrences at the —— Dance Hall is entirely incorrect and my sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs ——, also state that they have never seen or heard anything out of the ordinary during their sojourn there.'

(4) The opportunity for the investigators to question the girl *Margaret* did not arise, but later Mrs *Brown* spoke to her and reported to us that she denied seeing any apparition.

(5) The Catholic priest and the canon both denied all knowledge of the hall having been blessed at all. However, a cloakroom attendant at the hall stated that one morning he entered the hall to find a priest blessing the place. Mrs *Brown* was present. This testimony conflicts with both that of the priest, who denied that there had been any blessing, and with that of Mrs *Brown* who stated that she was not present when the blessing took place.

(6) *Bob*, who was said to be so terrified by the ghostly noises, maintained on being questioned that he had neither seen nor heard anything, but he did not like the atmosphere and would not care to stay in the place alone. During the night he spent there with Mr *Poole*, he heard only odd creaks, and no footsteps.

Among the persons questioned were the following:

(7) Mr *Thompson*, caretaker at the hall, an ex-regular soldier, stated that he had noted nothing unusual except that on one occasion whilst he was

tending the fire for the central heating, he heard three or four unexplained footsteps.

(8) Mr *Owen*, Mrs *Brown's* partner, declined to make any statement. It seemed that his relatives disapproved of his connection with the dance hall, which they considered an unsound proposition.

(9) The local police and the editor of the local paper were consulted. They were familiar with the history of the hall, but knew of no tradition of haunting. The place had been built as a school, later it was used as a chapel. It had been empty for ten years, then became a billiard hall and finally, five years ago, it came to be used as a dance hall, but it was structurally unsuited, and there was a much better, more modern dance hall nearby. In their opinion the dance business there was something of a white elephant, and had only paid during the war when the district was crowded with American troops. There was therefore ample reason for the frequent changes of ownership.

The hall itself, when inspected by the investigators, proved to be an old, dull-looking brick building, from the outside more like a store-house than a place of entertainment. The building was badly in need of repair. Inside, although recent attempts had been made to improve the internal decorations, there were signs of damp, and the general effect was somewhat dismal.

There was every opportunity for mysterious creaks and noises. The night the Research Officer spent in the hall, in addition to the usual creakings of the wooden dance floor, rattlings of the doors and whistling of the wind through the rafters, there was a queer rhythmic sound which put the watchers on the alert. It was traced to a dripping water cistern.

A few months after she first reported the case, Mrs *Brown* sold the business. During some renovations following the change of ownership, a disused sewer was discovered running under the building (close to where Mr *Poole* used to sleep) which was quite a runway for rats. The new proprietor, who runs a chain of dance halls, had with his experience and capital been able to increase staff and improve the building, so that the business is now doing much better. Nothing ghostly has happened since he took it over.

Clearly the case depended entirely upon the three persons most closely concerned with the hall, Mr *Poole*, Mrs *Brown* and Mrs *Field*. No one else could be found who was willing to bear out the theory that the place was haunted. The categorical denials by Mr *Roberts*, Miss *Dale*, *Bob*, and *Margaret* might suggest that the main characters in the case were deliberately lying in their accounts of the experiences of the other people concerned. If so, it was probably because they were anxious to convey to the investigators their conviction of the reality of their own experiences, rather than because they wanted to put over a story which they themselves did not believe.

If there was nothing unusual about the dance hall, it remains to be explained why three persons, Mr *Poole*, Mrs *Brown* and Mrs *Field* should all have had visionary experiences of ghostly faces and the like. Some clue may be had from a consideration of the people concerned.

First, there is Mr *Poole*, who might be called the chief agent in the case.

He it was who began the story of the haunt and persisted with it in the face of ridicule until the two ladies also became convinced. Mr *Poole* was in his thirties, shortish, but heavily-built, with strong-looking limbs and a thick-set countenance, fitting in well with his description of himself as a wrestler. His eyes gleamed out of extraordinarily narrow slits, adding a sinister touch to an otherwise ungainly appearance.

Psychologically there was something odd about Mr *Poole*. He did not strike me as being a well-developed, integrated personality. On close questioning he admitted to a belief in his own psychic powers, particularly in respect of premonitions. When, at the Research Officer's suggestion, he saw a psychologist in London, he described how he got infallibly correct 'hunches'. The psychologist held some fingers behind his back and asked Mr *Poole* to wait for one of his 'hunches' and then say how many fingers were being held out. Although Mr *Poole* was confident of his success, and the experiment was repeated ad lib, only chance results were obtained. According to Mrs *Brown* and Mrs *Field*, Mr *Poole* sometimes went into 'trances' and spoke strangely. One night he arrived at Mrs *Brown*'s very pale and shaken, saying that the thing from the dance hall had followed him home. Mr *Poole* was unmarried, and Mrs *Brown* remarked that he was 'very young in things like that'. He seemed rather dependent upon Mrs *Brown* both psychologically and materially. She had befriended him, given him the job at the dance hall, and even taken him into her house for a time. It must have been an acute disappointment to him that he had not been able to justify her trust by making the dance hall venture a success, and it was probably a great relief to Mr *Poole* to be able to attribute the failure to external supernormal causes.

Thus we have the first requirement for a 'haunt' of this nature, an individual subject to dissociation, who can gain some relief from inner conflict by means of an hysterical projection of ghostly visions which serve to excuse his own failure. For a long time the 'phenomena' were convincing to none but himself, but such was the conjunction of external circumstances that Mrs *Brown* eventually succumbed and attributed to the ghost what outsiders could see was a series of misfortunes caused by lack of business acumen, staffing inefficiency, petty pilfering, and sabotage.

Mrs *Brown* was a slim, well-preserved lady, older than Mr *Poole*. She is separated from her husband, who was an alcoholic. She ran a hair-dressing business, and took on the dance hall as a side line. She asserted so often and so volubly that she was an experienced business organiser that one felt she was trying to convince herself that the failure of the dance hall was not due to incompetence. Both Mrs *Brown* and Mrs *Field* were suggestible people, and once an hallucinatory experience had been precipitated, others followed readily. Shadows on the walls and in the rafters formed the basis of most of the 'faces' seen.

Mr *Poole*, Mrs *Brown* and Mrs *Field* on being questioned asserted that when they saw faces, they all saw the same faces. In the case of Mrs *Brown* and Mr *Poole*, who saw faces in the rafters when the Research Officer was present, this claim was disproved. When they both together gazed at the same spot in silence, and afterwards were questioned separately as to what they had seen, their descriptions did not tally. Mr *Chesters* found that by giving her a suitable lead he could make Mrs *Brown* see faces,

wherever he suggested. The psychologist who later saw Mrs Brown and Mr Poole performed a similar experiment, taking them into an almost dark room in which he said people had seen ghostly visions. They responded appropriately by seeing lights and faces, although in fact, so far as was known, no one had ever seen anything in the room before.

Mrs Field's visions were rather different. She was suffering from a bereavement, and kept seeing the face of her dead son. These experiences were painful for her, so the investigators did not in her case pry too closely or see whether visions could be induced by suggestion.

Mr Poole, Mrs Brown, and Mrs Field all said they had not experienced anything like hallucinations or visions prior to coming to the dance hall. If correct, this shows how easily hallucinations can be induced in normal persons by a sufficiently suggestible atmosphere. It must be noted, however, that in this case the hallucinations were mainly built up from light and shade effects on the walls and rafters, much as figures may be seen in ink-blots, or faces in crystals. This dependence upon *points de repère* indicates a more rudimentary form of projection than if the apparitions had been seen to move about realistically among their surroundings.

Thus we have, besides an active agent, the second important factor in the genesis of the haunt; persons susceptible to hallucinations and suitably suggestible. The third factor, external circumstances (in this case a string of mishaps), served to confirm the idea of the haunt. Finally, the whole affair was probably perpetrated by the unconscious motive of all concerned to find some scapegoat for the failure of the business.

PRECOGNITIVE DREAMS AND THE DUNNE EXPERIMENT

In a letter to the Research Officer, dated August 8th, 1948, Mr J. C. M. Kruisinga, of Vriezenveen, Holland, wrote as follows :

On p. 269 of your most interesting paper 'The Investigation of Spontaneous Cases' (*Proceedings*, Vol. XLVIII, Part 175) you suggest that the Dunne experiment is not repeatable, as no successes have been published since the 1933 trial.

I am sorry to say you are not altogether right in surmising that nothing has been published concerning precognitive dreams. In Holland two complete series of dream records, each covering about three years, have been submitted to statistical analysis, the results of which have been duly published in the *Tijdschrift voor Parapsychologie*, the Dutch S.P.R. bi-monthly. One of these series, consisting of 1444 records, has further been checked against pure coincidence. As a matter of fact it was my own, as well as the control series I used for my checking. Dr Kooy of Delft University and I had a lot of trouble about standardising both 'mixed' and pure chance influences, and fencing in chance results, but we got through all right, I think.

I have summarised my own concluding paper on the Dunne effect (*Tijdschrift voor Parapsychologie*, XII, pp. 213-228) as follows :

DUNNE EFFECT OR COINCIDENCE? (Summary in English)

Earlier in this paper (Vol XI, pp. 173-182) I have commented upon a series of dream records I completed by March 1937, and indicated a

method to check its apparent results against those afforded by pure chance. In the experimental series the number of F-resemblances (cf. J. W. Dunne, *An Experiment with Time*, 3rd Edition, p. 256) within the scheduled time interval of ninety days totalled 62 in 1444 recorded dream situations. It has been found impossible, not only to show degrees of resemblance graphically, but even to discern between 'good' and 'moderate' cases objectively. I spent several months in trying to obtain estimates of the probability factors for every combining element, but the obstacles proved insurmountable, and I have made no reference to these fruitless attempts in my report.

A control series during which I have kept every resemblance carefully outside the time limit has yielded far better results in determining chance influences. Working with my original fourteen hundred or so dream records, and comparing them with real incidents occurring within a 90 days interval postponed until three years later, I found in the first place that the total number of F-resemblances (of which not a single one now could have a right to be called a Dunne effect) was considerably less.

During the control series F-resemblances totalled 17, thus comparing most unfavourably with the 62 contained in the experimental one.

Secondly, the difference in character of both kinds of phenomena was sufficiently demonstrated by having the Dunne effect cases controlled in this way by a standard series, in which pure chance only can be held responsible for resemblances.

Mr Kruisinga enclosed two histograms showing the frequency of 'resemblances' plotted against the time interval between the recording of the dream and the occurrence of the 'resemblance'. In the diagram illustrating pure chance there was a more or less uniform incidence in the chance resemblances, which were spread out in a straggling line along the axis. In the diagram of the results of pure chance plus Dunne effect, there was a great piling up of resemblances over the short period immediately following the dream.

The Research Officer replied thanking Mr Kruisinga for drawing attention to the serious omission from his paper of any mention of the Dutch experiments in precognitive dreams. He pointed out that there was what seemed to him an insuperable difficulty in the assessment of dream records, in so far as they purport to foretell the dreamer's own future experiences, namely, that only he is in a position to note the correspondences. The consequence is that it is impossible for the dreamer to avoid knowing when he is scoring 'control' dreams, and such knowledge may influence his scoring.

Recent experiments in the scoring of mediumistic utterances have shown how difficult it is, when the scorer knows which are 'controls' and which are actual items, to secure an impartial annotation free from subjective bias.

In reply Mr Kruisinga wrote as follows :

I too have alluded in my publications to the difficulty you mentioned in your letter, viz. the subjective factor in assessing the 'control' and 'experimental' correspondences. However, I have always regarded

the sifting of my material for correspondences as a kind of sport, and—according to my own conviction—have never made any differences between hunting for chance correspondences in the control series and picking (hypothetically) paranormal ones from the experimental records. In other words, I remember having always been as enthusiastic over a good chance congruency as over a plausible 'Q.E.D.' effect. I have tried to illustrate my attitude towards precognitive dreams by saying that there are no better gamekeepers than ex-poachers. Having felt like a poacher during the experiment, I felt a certain satisfaction in acting as a gamekeeper while controlling my former unorthodox results. I fully agree with you that I may be all wrong in my imagination, as of course my conviction of having weighed results impartially also comes under the heading 'subjective'. But letting that pass, I was rather pleased indeed to have found a method at least partly useful in checking the otherwise much flattered results of an entirely uncontrolled dream experiment.

I may state—but of course you can only take my word for it—that I took up the experiment in a very sceptical state of mind, and even now I am vaguely unconvinced. If the quantitative method, however, is going to yield irrefutable proof of precognition, the Dutch dream experiment may be of some value as independent and corroborative evidence.

You were quite right in writing there is no way out of the difficulty and so in dream experiments we shall have to take it into the bargain.

Mr G. F. Dalton, a member of the Society, has since reported the results of another attempted repetition of the Dunne experiment. The conditions were informal, the experiments being intended as an exploratory or pilot operation which other investigators could follow up with more rigorous methods. The results were very similar to those obtained by Mr Kruisinga. The dream records were re-read every day for forty days following the dream, and all resemblances to actual events were noted. Mr Dalton found that most of the resemblances occurred in the first three days, the frequency thereafter dropping steeply to a more or less constant chance level.

EDITOR'S NOTES

THESE Notes, which are a new feature of the *Journal*, are mainly intended to provide a channel through which members may be informed of matters which would not otherwise find a place in its columns. They will include such items as short accounts of cases which, though of interest, are not suitable for reporting in full; points from letters; news of the activities of other societies concerned with psychical research; accounts of research work in progress; and comments on published reports and matters of general interest which may be helpful to new and less experienced members. Above all, it is hoped that they may in some measure serve to bring members into closer relation with each other and with the officers of the Society.

It must be emphasised that opinions expressed in these Notes are not to be taken as those of the Council, but are the responsibility of the Editor alone.

* * *

A frequent subject of discussion to-day is the apparent decrease in the number of cases which give grounds for assuming a paranormal cause. Some people are of the opinion that the decrease is more apparent than real, and that experiences of a psychic nature are no less common to-day than in the early days of the Society. It is held that the increasingly wide acceptance of psychical phenomena in general has led those experiencing them to assume that they are of smaller interest, with the result that they are less often reported. A different view is that many claims cannot now stand up to sharpened criticism and the improved technique of investigation. This is to some extent true of certain spontaneous experiences. The development of psychiatry and the patient work of psychical researchers have shown that cases having outwardly all the features associated with a genuinely paranormal occurrence are often due to psychological, as distinct from psychic, causes. Cases which frequently come into this category are those having the characteristics of poltergeist activity ; and 'hauntings', often of a persistent nature, centering in the early stages round a single individual. The case reported by Dr West in this issue is a good example of the 'psychological haunt'. As one often finds in a case of this type, the occurrences centred round a person 'subject to dissociation, who can gain some relief from inner conflict by means of an hysterical projection of ghostly visions' ; and the case involved two other people sufficiently suggestible to give currency, in all good faith, to supposed paranormal happenings.

The Society receives reports of a considerable number of cases of this kind, and they are often of great interest, not only from a psychological point of view, but also because they illustrate how easily they could, on a superficial examination, be mistaken for genuinely paranormal cases. To those members who would like to see them reported more frequently, it should be said that such cases often involve information of so intimate a nature that those concerned are not prepared to allow publication of the full facts essential to their understanding.

It is one of the achievements of psychical research to have rendered this type of case more easily identifiable, and so to have narrowed the field for a closer study of the residuum of paranormal phenomena.

* * *

The B.B.C. continues to include in its programmes features dealing with what is commonly described as 'the supernatural'. Some two years ago there was the series of broadcasts on haunted houses under the title of 'Do You Believe in Ghosts?', and later an 'outside' broadcast from the site of Borley Rectory—an affair which, incidentally, let loose on the inhabitants of the one remaining building so many sightseers that they began to regret their choice of habitation. More recently, and of greater interest to those concerned with psychical research, were Dr Dingwall's talk on 'Eminent Victorians and the Spirit World' in the series 'Ideas and Beliefs of the Victorians' ; a survey of the history and applications

of hypnotism; and an examination by Stuart Hampshire of the philosophical implications of Dr J. B. Rhine's latest work, *The Reach of the Mind*.

Broadcasts describing experiences of a supposed psychic nature have lately been given by Algernon Blackwood ('Oddities') and by Charles Grosse ('African Haunts'). The latter gave an account of two striking experiences which happened to him in Southern Rhodesia when he was in the British South African Police. The first story told by Mr Grosse (who has kindly shown his script to the Research Officer) described how he was the target for a shower of stones, averaging in size that of a coconut, coming from a direction where, according to his observation, there was no human being and where no one could have been concealed. Unfortunately, there was no witness of this occurrence (except an aged African witch-doctor standing close to Mr Grosse while the stones were being thrown) and (a point which was not mentioned in the broadcast) the event was not set down in detail until nearly thirty years after its occurrence. Mr Grosse's second story, which also involved activities of a poltergeist nature, mentions at least two witnesses, and efforts are being made to communicate with them.

* * *

When the performance of a stage 'mind-reader' using conjuring methods to produce his effects is presented to the public as though it were a genuine example of telepathy, a disservice is done to psychical research, even though the performer himself may make no specific claim to psychic powers. A large proportion of those who heard the brilliant 'mind-reading' performance of Mr Maurice Fogel broadcast by the B.B.C. at 10.15 p.m. on December 6th, and who read the impressive account in the *News Chronicle* of December 8th of the 'test' carried out in that newspaper's offices cannot fail to have concluded, from the manner in which these performances were described, that those present were convinced that genuine psychic powers were involved. It is food for thought that many of the millions who heard or read these descriptions must have received the impression that telepathic faculties exist in a very advanced state and can be brought into play at will.

Several members of the Society have expressed concern about the manner in which these performances were presented. They may be interested to know that Mr Fogel made the following statement to the Editor of this *Journal* on December 11th :

'I do not lay claim to supernormal powers, nor do I wish to be called a "telepathist". I have my own method of "reading people's thoughts"'

* * *

In a private Society whose financial resources are limited and whose raw material, the individual gifted with psychic powers, appears to be so rare, much depends on the efforts of the members themselves. Though the membership is larger than it has been for many years, and is still increasing, there is little news of experimental work carried out by individual members. Few of us to-day have sufficient leisure to devote to lengthy and exacting research projects, but there is a way in which members can be of great

service : namely, by helping to locate promising subjects. They can do this, as Mr Denys Parsons and Dr West suggested in their recent lectures, visiting by mediums and fortune-tellers, however obscure, by carrying out simple E.S.P. experiments,¹ and by putting the Society's officers in touch with anyone who they have grounds for believing has faculties deserving investigation. Those who have the necessary equipment and technical knowledge would then be able to concentrate on the investigation of subjects who have already shown signs of special ability.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE PSI PROCESSES

SIR,—In his criticism (June-July *Journal*) of our Shin paper, Mr Basil Smith says that the known facts of physiology make the hypothesis of the separateness of mind and body untenable, that the fact of destruction of mind through brain injury indicates that mind and brain are identical, and that the idea of Shin control of growth has been disproved for ever by Dr Needham's *Biochemistry and Morphogenesis* which proves that growth is the work of hormones.

He is, of course, expressing the orthodox physiological view based on facts other than those considered by psychical research. We know that view and we know the facts on which it is based. Our contention was simply that psychical research reveals other facts which require a modification of the orthodox view.

Mr Smith is mistaken in thinking that we assert the separateness of mind and body, which is certainly a view incompatible with the facts he mentions and with a good many other more familiar facts, but neither the facts he mentions nor any other facts prove his contention that mind and body are identical. If the physical brain is the instrument of an immaterial Shin, then the activity of Shin in the material world must be impaired by injury to the physical brain. We cannot discover whether the source of music is a violin or a musical box merely by noting that progressive destruction of the mechanism causes progressive interference with the music. Loss of mental efficiency through destruction of brain tissue is to be expected either on the hypothesis that the brain is an instrument or that it is an automatism, so evidence of such loss cannot decide which of these alternative hypotheses is true.

Similarly, experimental work on the part played by chemical organisers in promoting growth does not disprove the hypothesis of an entelechy or Shin control of growth. The most that any biochemist would claim is that he knows no facts which necessitate such a hypothesis. It cannot be disproved 'for ever', because new facts may always be found which do

¹ All the equipment required for simple card-guessing experiments may be obtained from the Society. Zener cards can be supplied at 3s. 6d. for packets of 50 and printed forms for recording guesses at 1s. 6d. for 50. Advice on how to carry out experiments and to assess the results is given in Dr Soal's pamphlet *Card-Guessing: Advice and Instructions to Experimenters*, which can be bought for 1s. 6d. from the Secretary.

not fit into the orthodox biochemical system of explanation. We suggest that certain facts of psychical research do demand such a hypothesis. This cannot be disproved by any work by a biochemist which does not take account of these facts.

Incidentally, by no means all biologists accept the view that the discovery of organisers and other factors directing development has rendered unnecessary the 'vitalistic' hypothesis. Organisers (*i.e.* substances or factors determining development), like other demonstrable physical factors, may belong to the mechanism by which entelechy acts. But it is outside the scope of this journal to extend the argument to the biological field, though it might be mentioned, for the sake of accuracy, that we are not, as Mr Smith seems to suppose, both psychologists; we are a psychologist and a biologist.

Yours etc.,

R. H. THOULESS
B. P. WIESNER

THE INVESTIGATION OF SPONTANEOUS CASES

SIR,—May I have space for a few remarks on Dr West's paper on 'The Investigation of Spontaneous Cases' (*Proceedings*, Vol. XLVIII, Pt. 175). I realise fully the desirability of 'Podmorean' criticism from time to time as a wholesome check on over-enthusiasm; at the same time I feel very strongly that carping criticism often does more harm than good, and seems to me that his paper is a case in point.

From my own experience I know that reports of events may often be incomplete, especially if made by those untrained in making such reports, and yet the events themselves be perfectly valid. If someone sees a 'ghost', this event is liable to make a deep impression upon him, especially if it is subsequently found to correspond with some event, such as the death of the person so indicated. The mere fact that it was not entered in a diary, or written-up at the time, by the percipient, surely does not prove its uselessness, far less its non-existence. From the point of view of the psychical researcher, this is unfortunate, but most likely to happen. Few people will write down their experiences, even when asked to do so. It is not as though some complicated series of events were involved, such as the description of a slate-writing performance, where I admit immediate notes are essential, and even then liable to be faulty! But in apparition cases, for example, a simple human observation is all that is required, and even if the date is wrongly given (so long as the coincidence is proved) what of it? It no more invalidates the case than it would if an observer noted a shower of meteors, but could not remember whether this occurred on the 27th or 28th of the month. The fact is that the shower *occurred*, and the mere fact that it was not written down at the time would not prove that the observation was not made. It *was*; so why should we reject his testimony because no note of it was made at the time?

I write as I do because I have had an example of this sort of thing in my own experience. Mr Podmore, in his book *The Newer Spiritualism*, devoted a chapter to a criticism of our Naples Report on Eusapia Palladino. He attempted to pick flaws in this, and indicate loopholes whereby fra-

could have been rendered possible. Thus, on certain occasions (though rarely) the position of one hand or one foot was not given in the stenographic account; hence, he concludes, it was free, and further, that it undoubtedly produced the phenomenon in question. As a matter of fact, we who were present know that it was *not* free; we merely neglected to dictate to the stenographer its exact position at that particular moment, in the hectic rush of events. (And this by experienced investigators like Feilding, Baggally and myself.) *Had the critic been there*, he would have seen that the control was perfect at the time, though not so indicated in the Report. Many of the criticisms made and theories advanced by the arm-chair critic would have seemed utterly ridiculous to him, had he been there at the time, and actually witnessed what was going on. Loopholes in a dictated account do not necessarily prove that such loopholes actually existed; the human error was not in the observation, but in the dictated account, which was not one hundred per cent perfect—as of course it should have been.

If this applies to a case such as above, it surely applies to the far simpler cases of coincidental apparitions, which were not noted in writing at the time, but which may have occurred precisely as subsequently stated, and which, as I have said, doubtless made a deep and never-to-be-forgotten impression upon the percipient at the time. The arbitrary rejection of such cases on that ground would seem to me to be totally unwarranted. What percentage of legal testimony would be acceptable were such Utopian standards maintained?

Yours etc.,

HEREWARD CARRINGTON

SIR,—Thank you for showing me Dr Carrington's letter. I did not intend my paper to imply that all spontaneous cases which fail to reach a high evidential standard are either useless or spurious. As soon as one is satisfied that there are any instances in which normal explanations are impossible, it becomes a safe guess that some of the unsubstantiated cases are also paranormal. All the same, a certain case is always better than a doubtful one.

I cannot agree with Dr Carrington that apparitional experiences are such simple events that contemporary notes are unnecessary. The relevant circumstances are often complex, and investigation shows that memory is not a safe guide on these matters.

The analogy between accounts of spontaneous cases and reports of trained observers at a séance is not very close. In the example of Eusapia Palladino, I sympathise with Dr Carrington's exasperation at arm-chair criticism, but I also sympathise with the exasperation of the critic who has to deal with an incomplete account without the opportunity of personal observations. It should be our aim to produce records which are completely convincing to readers who have not experienced the phenomena in question.

The target set in my paper scarcely exceeded the standard of legal evidence required to convict a murderer. It may have been arbitrary and Utopian, but it is not, I hope, impractical. Uncorroborated and weakly

evidenced cases are legion. If progress is to be made and critics silenced all the energies of psychical researchers should be directed to obtaining cases so completely backed up that they cannot reasonably be rejected.

Yours etc.,

D. J. WEST

FORECASTS AND PRECOGNITION

SIR,—Mr Drayton Thomas's interesting article 'Forecasts and Preognition' in the July, 1948 issue of *Proceedings* merits further discussion. I have only space to deal with two cases.

Since Mr Thomas has treated his cases in a qualitative manner, as opposed to the statistical and objective methods that are now available, shall discuss most of this material in a qualitative way.

Liverpool Street Station

There seem to be three coincidences :

(1) Closely associated with Elsie.

(2) You walk down a little hill, not a steep place.

(3) The word 'Avenue' written up 'or is she only thinking
"Avenue"'.

(1) is highly subjective. It seems to me curious, however, if Liverpool Street is so closely associated with her, that Mr Thomas should only realise the application as he entered the station.

(2) There is certainly a little hill at Liverpool Street (and at many other places), and one does walk down it to enter the station, but personally I should have said that, as London hills go, it is rather a steep place.

(3) Mr Thomas found two avenues within 200 yards of Liverpool Street. Is this exceptional, or would it be expected by chance alone? I am indebted to my brother, B. J. Western, for performing an experiment on this point. A circle, just enclosing parts of the two Avenues named, was drawn on the 'Lightning' map of London about Liverpool Street. It also enclosed parts of 70 other streets (none of them avenues)—i.e. one in thirty-six or 2.78% of the streets around Liverpool Street are avenues. By random sampling in the index of the map it was found that the proportion of avenues in London as a whole was 5.01% or one in twenty with standard deviation of .59%. In the seventy-two streets enclosed by the circle about Liverpool Street there were only the two avenues which 'to my surprise' Mr Thomas found. He comments 'The introduction of the word "Avenue" would seem to have been in the nature of a clue, or an additional description, by which I might be certain that I had discovered the place to which the forecast referred'. His surprise and certainty appear somewhat unjustified, since it is to be expected, on chance alone, that there would be some 3.6 avenues as close as this.

I do not know what the train service was like in 1935, but at present the Cambridge trains from Liverpool Street are generally faster and more frequent than those from King's Cross; Major Mowbray would not need much 'influencing' by the communicator to choose Liverpool Street.

The Annunciation Picture

It is unfortunate that only 'the substance' of the medium's statements are quoted.

There are five apparently significant features :

- (1) Blankness of mind and the urge to look.
- (2) Position with regard to me.
- (3) Get the message from the picture.
- (4) Background : Foreground.
- (5) The lily.

(1) is purely subjective and it would be very easy to have a false memory of it after the event.

(2) is vague and ambiguous.

(3) The most obvious message to draw is the one the Angel came to give to Mary, viz. : 'Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son'. But if it be necessary to hunt for less obvious messages in what the Angel said, here are a few more :

- (a) 'Blessed art thou among women'.
- (b) '(the son) shall be great, shall reign for ever and shall be called the Son of God'.
- (c) 'Thy cousin Elizabeth hath also conceived in her old age'.

Among so many, the vague message of being highly favoured does not seem particularly significant.

(2), (3), (4) and (5) are dependent. 'Position with regard to me' and 'Get the message from the picture' apply to all Annunciation pictures, and I believe it is true that most Annunciation pictures (a) show an Annunciation Lily and (b) have the division into background and foreground of the typical Italian painters.

If this is so, the prediction boils down to the statement that Mr Thomas would shortly see an Annunciation picture. As Mr Thomas is a clergyman, this does not seem very unlikely.

There are also certain general points, among which may be mentioned :

- (1) In none of Mr Thomas's cases are we given a corroborative statement.
- (2) Many of the forecasts are sufficiently vague for there to be many ways in which they might be fulfilled which detracts from their significance.
- (3) It is difficult to say exactly how much information the medium might not know about Mr Thomas by this time.

(4) We do not know from how large a body of unsuccessful material the above cases are selected.

In connection with the last two points, the earliest of these Leonard sittings that Mr Thomas deals with was in February 1917.

These considerations, Sir, lead to the conclusion that Mr Thomas's article is not up to the standard which this Society is entitled to expect for its publications.

Yours etc.,

A. M. WESTERN

MEDICAL SECTION OF A. S. P. R.

SIR,—A group of physician members of the American Society for Psychical Research has organized a Medical Section to investigate the psychiatric and psychoanalytic aspects of telepathy and related phenomena. Recent publications in the various psychiatric journals bear witness to the growing importance of this subject to all those engaged in personal studies as well as in psychotherapy.

Further information as to the aims and purposes of this Section, and programme, can be obtained from the undersigned.

Yours etc.,

L. A. DALE (Mrs)
Executive Secretary, Medical Section
American Society for Psychical Research, Inc., Suite 1A, 880 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y., U.S.A.

DOWSING

SIR,—As a member of the Society with a life-long experience of dowsing I feel that my opinion on the experiments reported in the May 1948 issue of the *Journal* may be of use. As you were unable to publish my long letter owing to lack of space, I should be very glad to send a copy to any members interested, if they will write to me at 22 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. 3.

Yours etc.,

MARGARET E. HONE

THE FOX SISTERS: A CORRECTION

SIR,—In the article on the Fox Sisters in the September issue of the *Journal*, there was an error which was not noticed until too late for correction. A sentence near the end of the first paragraph on page 282 ought have read: 'Within a month Kate had recanted, and Margaret followed suit a year later.' As the passage stood it might have been supposed that Leah had retracted a confession, which in fact she never made at any time. I regret the error.

Yours etc.,

J. FRASER NICOL

REVIEWS

THE MYTH OF THE MAGUS. By E. M. Butler. (Cambridge University Press. 1948. xi, 282 pp. Illustrated. 21s.)

Though she disclaims the authority of a historian, Professor Butler's study is essentially historical. Starting to investigate the Faust legend she was led to the wider study of the Magician, as presented by legend and history. She finds in the story of each prominent Magus a pattern, certain basic correspondences with the rest. This pattern consists of ten features, not all of them present in each instance, but constant enough to be listed as insignia; and no magician of stature fails to score several of them. These are, as she gives them: supernatural or mysterious origin; portents of birth; perils menacing infancy; an initiation; wanderings in distant

lands ; a magical contest ; a trial or persecution ; a last scene, whether of leavetaking, prophecy, or repentance ; a violent or mysterious death, and a resurrection, with sometimes an ascension as well.

All the features are present in the life of Jesus, whom Professor Butler treats with the same detachment as she gives to her other subjects. They inform the legend of Zoroaster, are repeated all but exactly in the story of Apollonius of Tyana, and colour the lives of other ancient magicians, including Pythagoras, and even Moses, to whose story one or two missing features were later tacked on. The advent of Christianity introduced a new moral element, a sharp distinction between white and black magic, under which Simon Magus was the first to fall : and presently the Christian church expressly condemned all magic not practised in its name and by its accredited representatives.

This attitude drove the mediaeval magi into direct opposition, and pacts with the devil became a necessary qualification for the job. Of Dr Faust, who, if not the prototype, became the chief representative of this type of magician, Professor Butler finds little good to say. The man himself appears to have been a petty and disreputable conjuror ; and she puts him forward as the classic instance of legend devouring and superseding fact.

For the rest, Jeanne d'Arc is treated side by side with Gilles de Rais and Roger Bacon, considered after Faust on the ground that although he lived in the thirteenth century, his fame did not flower until the sixteenth. Dr John Dee shares a chapter with Edward Kelley, the medium who did his 'skrying' for him, followed by the Comte de St. Germain, who has a long and admirable chapter to himself, and Cagliostro. More recent times are represented by Madame Blavatsky and Rasputin.

It is always easy to demand of a book that it be something it is not, and Professor Butler's modest disclaimers on p. 10 make one feel positively unchivalrous to complain.

'In this slight and superficial contribution to the history of ideas, I have kept as far as possible on the legendary level, reproducing widespread conceptions and beliefs rather than historical data.'

As a result, it is difficult to see where her own beliefs lie. Everything, however preposterous, that has been alleged and believed about a magician is set down with the same detachment as the historical data which Professor Butler has tended to avoid. True, she often shows that she does not believe a claim : but we could be pardoned for concluding that she believed none of the material, and lumped all the magicians together as charlatans, more or less inspired. To some she grants in their heyday the possession of *mana*, inspiration, energy, power over the minds of those about them. For Cagliostro she suggests the explanation of a dual personality, of which the shadow side was 'the blackguard Giuseppe Balsamo'. She does not attempt to decide the proportion of fraud in the life of Madame Blavatsky, who must have needed an exceptional degree of *mana* to make the impression she did upon a number of intelligent and some exceptional men. Of Rasputin she gives us little but a bowdlerised account of his death. She draws no clear line between the conjuring tricks of the various magi and their attested or alleged supernormal feats.

Once again, it is a vice of reviewing to complain that an author has not done what he never claimed to do. But for readers of this journal the

main interest in a book about magicians must always be its investigation of the phenomena they are said to produce. What are magical powers, and what do they mean? If we see a piece of matter move in apparent defiance of the laws of gravity, or a cut closed and healed in a few minutes, what are we seeing? Nothing 'unnatural', certainly: but what? What law, what secret of the universe is in operation before our eyes?

Professor Butler is on sure ground when she says that the magic almost always falls through trying to translate inspiration from the realm of imagination to the realm of matter. So translated, it becomes capricious and often destructive. In fact, she lets fall so many hints that we are eager for her to turn her cool, clear, sceptical mind to the problems which may interest us. As it is, she has done an entirely admirable piece of speculative work, for which many of her successors will bless her. It is seldom recognised how essential are books of this kind, which bring together and relate whole masses of knowledge and give them fresh relevance, fresh meaning. The book is charmingly written, and in places, particularly in the study of Madame Blavatsky, shows a most human un-historic compassion.

L. A. G. S.

HYPNOTISM TODAY. By L. M. Lecron and J. Bordeaux. (London: Heinemann. 1947. ix, 278 pp. 25s.)

The first part of this book deals briefly with the early work on hypnotism. This is followed by a detailed chapter describing the many and various methods of inducing hypnosis. Unlike many books on the subject, which dismiss the methods of induction in a few paragraphs, the authors of this little book must be congratulated on the way they have set out this chapter, which not only puts before the reader a very clear description of how to hypnotise but also records some interesting observations which, if taken into account, may be responsible for the failures met with in some subjects.

Successive chapters deal with hypnotic and post-hypnotic phenomena and how to produce them. Then follows an interesting section entitled 'Hypnotism and the Psychic Sciences' and this dispells the very common but erroneous belief that hypnotism is allied to the occult. Mention is made of a trance medium who was given pentothal (a barbiturate drug) in order to induce narcosis and on many later occasions this same subject was hypnotised by one of the usual methods. When asked to compare these two conditions, narcosis and hypnosis, he said he found it difficult to think clearly under the pentothal but that the hypnosis and mediumistic trance were identical in every respect. Another medium made the same statement, but added that in his opinion the trance state was not an hypnotic hypnosis but a hypnotic state produced by his guides.

The second part of the book deals with Hypnotherapy and describes how hypnosis can be used with effect in many psychological complaints. The authors also explain, in detail, the make-up of many 'nervous' disorders and do not hesitate to admit that hypnotism is not used as a cure but only as an aid in certain selected cases to reveal facts long since repressed and by so doing, effect an abreaction which will lead to the cure of the condition.

The dangers of inexperienced persons using *hypnotherapy* as opposed to *hypnosis* is emphasised.

I. F.

DIMENSIONS OF PERSONALITY. By H. J. Eysenck, Ph.D. (London : Kegan Paul. 1947. xi, 308 pp. 25s.)

This is an important work on the nature of personality differences as revealed by the technique of multiple factor analysis. It has become clear in recent years that the popular names for character traits form a very unsatisfactory basis for scientific description. Multiple factor analysis offers a method by means of which one can construct a self-consistent scheme of personality measurement. From a group of male neurotic soldiers, it appeared that two main directions of variation could be measured, labelled respectively 'neuroticism' and 'extraversion-introversion'. Tests were selected which were found to be discriminatory of these traits while other tests failed to measure them. The factor of 'suggestibility' appeared to be analysable into three factors which Dr Eysenck calls 'primary suggestibility', 'secondary suggestibility' and 'prestige suggestibility'. Those who wish to apply personality tests to the task of distinguishing those who are likely to succeed in parapsychological tests would do well to take into account the work on personality measurement that has been done by Dr Eysenck and others. They will not find Dr Eysenck's book particularly easy reading if they are not familiar with the methods of factor analysis.

R. H. T.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SUPERSTITIONS. By E. and M. A. Radford. (London : Rider. 1948. ix, 269 pp. 16s.)

A useful reference book containing notes on some 2,300 superstitions, arranged so that any individual superstition or group of superstitions related to one particular subject can be found under a specified heading.

PHILIP IN Two WORLDS. By Alice Gilbert. Foreword by L. A. G. Strong. (London : Andrew Dakers. 1948. 242 pp. 8s. 6d.)

In this book, an account of communications believed by the authoress to have reached her from her dead son is preceded by letters from him written to her during his lifetime. In his foreword Mr Strong remarks that the value of the book, which for him 'nowhere approaches the level of scientific proof [of survival]—though I believe a good deal of it—is that it helps to create a state of mind in which this most important question of survival can be seriously considered'.

EXPLORING THE PSYCHIC WORLD. By John Butler. (London : Oak Tree Books. 1947. 190 pp. 10s. 6d.)

MARY BAKER EDDY : Her Communications from Beyond the Grave to Harold Horwood and Ursula Roberts. (London : Psychic Press. 1948. 101 pp. 6s.)

PHILOSOPHY OF WHITE RAY. Through the Trance Mediumship of Paulette Austen. (London : Psychic Press. [1948]. 171 pp. 7s. 6d.)

NOTICES TO MEMBERS

FILM SHOW

AN apology and explanation is due to members who attended the film show on October 5th, at which a three-reel film on magnetic healing, made Holland, was shown, together with a two-reel comedy unrelated to psychical research. It had been hoped that another Dutch film dealing with the mystic Mirin Dajo would be available, but unfortunately it could not be passed through the Customs in time. It is also regretted that no information was available about the circumstances surrounding the making of the film on magnetic healing.

DENYS PARSONS
Joint Hon. Sec.

INDEX TO VOLUME XXXIV OF THE JOURNAL

An index to Volume XXXIV (1947-8) of the *Journal* is being prepared and will, it is hoped, be circulated in the first issue published in 1949. An announcement about binding cases for this volume will be made later.

OBITUARY: MRS ALICE MACDONALD FLEMING

WE regret to record the death, in October last, of Mrs Alice Macdonald Fleming, the 'Mrs Holland' whose automatic writing is frequently quoted and discussed in our *Proceedings*, especially in Miss Alice Johnson's two Reports (*Proc.*, XXI and XXIV). She was the daughter of Lockwood Kipling.

She was active in the production of scripts between the years 1903 and 1910. At that time she was unwilling to allow her real name to be used in connection with her automatic writing, but several years before her death she informed the Society that she no longer saw any objection to this.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

THE 439th Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Monday, 26 July 1948, at 3.30 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. Salter, in the chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct. Twenty-seven new Members were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

The 440th Meeting of the Council was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Wednesday, 22 September 1948, at 2.30 p.m., the President, Mr W. H. Salter, in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were read and signed as correct.

Mrs Heywood was appointed an elected member of Council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. Mrs Alfred Lyttelton.

The resignation from the Council of Brigadier Firebrace, a co-operative member, was reported.

34/5 Eighteen new Members were elected. Their names and addresses are given below.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

THE 200th Private Meeting of the Society was held in the Society's Rooms on Wednesday, 3 November 1948, at 6 p.m., when a lecture entitled 'The Physiology and Psychology of Trance' was given by Dr William Brown, M.D.

NEW MEMBERS

(Elected 26 July 1948)

CUCK, DR ALICE E., 46 Queen Anne Street, London, W. 1.
 CAPE, MISS S. L., San Remo Hotel, Torquay, Devon.
 DICKENSEN, W. N., M.A., M.B., Pembroke College, Oxford.
 ELWIN, REV. W. H., c/o D. S. Dickson, Esq., 137 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, 2.
 FORWALD, HAAKON E., Grottvägen 37, Ludvika, Sweden.
 RAELICH, R. O., 173 Pennwood Avenue, Pittsburgh 18, Penna., U.S.A.
 REDERICKS, MRS, 23 Hillcrest Road, Hythe, Kent.
 GARRETT, MRS EILEEN J., 220 Madison Avenue, New York, 16, U.S.A.
 HICK, J. H., M.A., Athol House, Fulford Road, Scarborough, Yorks.
 HOUGH, J. D. S., 134 Lexham Gardens, London, W. 8.
 HOWE, MRS ELIC, 5 Thurloe Close, Alexander Place, London, S.W. 7.
 HOWES, NEVILLE, 88 Hollyfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
 SAACS, LEON, 9 Green Lane, Brent Street, Hendon, London, N.W. 4.
 ACOBI, H. F. E., 11 Sutherland Avenue, London, W. 9.
 JOHNSON, R. C., M.A., D.Sc., Queen's College, Melbourne, N. 3, Australia.
 KERSLEY, REV. E. H., 29 Churchill Way, Peverell, Plymouth.
 LIBRARIAN, Hampstead Public Libraries, Finchley Road, London, N.W. 3.
 LOEWY, F. E., M.R.C.P., 7 Wellington Court, London, N.W. 8.
 MACNAUGHTEN, MRS A., Hadleigh House, Windsor, Berks.
 MEEKER, MRS, 17 Eton Villas, London, N.W. 3.
 NICHOLSON, MRS C. S., M.B., 8 Ashburn Gardens, London, S.W. 7.
 RYOR, MRS E. P., M.B.E., B.E.M., Lannock Manor, Hitchin, Herts.
 ROBERTS, MRS D. O., 58 Whitehouse Avenue, Boreham Wood, Herts.
 ROBERTS, E., Ranfurly, Serpentine South, Blundellsands, Liverpool 23.
 TOKES, MRS, 157 Nottingham Road, Mansfield, Notts.
 THOMPSON, MRS A. R., 74 Carlisle Mansions, Carlisle Place, London, S.W. 1.
 YEO, JOHN, 12 Fulbrooks Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey.

(Elected 22 September 1948)

LEXANDER, R. G., 237 The Vale, Golders Green, London, N.W. 11.
 USER, MRS J., Forest Farm, Londiani, Kenya, B.E. Africa.
 LARK, J., M.B., Lochielbank, Barrhill, Dalbeattie.
 LARK-LOWES, D. N., 6A The Schools, Shrewsbury, Salop.
 ROCKS, DR T., Fulford House, Hawes, Yorks.
 DE VAULT, R. T., 2523 St Pierre Avenue, Altadena, Calif., U.S.A.
 LSDEN, A. V., O.B.E., Martlets, Hurston Lane, Storrington, Pulborough.

GELL, P. G. M., National Institute for Medical Research, Holly Hill,
London, N.W. 3.

LIBRARIAN, Columbia University, 535 West 114th Street, New York City
U.S.A.

MAYER, A. D., c/o William Deacons Bank, Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.

MONCRIEFF, C. M., 26 Kensington Park Gardens, London, W. 11.

MONCRIEFF, CAPTAIN M. M., The Cliffs, Nelson, New Zealand.

OAKSHOTT, MAJOR R. S., c/o British Embassy, Teheran, Iran.

REYNOLDS, MRS A. M., 8 Kensington Church Walk, London, W. 8.

SHAG, MRS A., 1 Orchard Park, Dartington, Totnes, Devon.

STOCKER, LT-COL. C. J., M.D., Crowmire Wood, Ghyll Head, Bowness
on-Windermere.

TERRY, L. B., 12 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. 1.

URBAN, DR HUBERT J., Meinhardtstrasse 3, Innsbruck, Austria.

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1947-1948

For the sake of brevity such qualifications as 'supposed', 'alleged', etc., are omitted from this index. It must, however, be understood that this omission is made solely for brevity, and does not imply any assertion that the subject-matter of any entry is in fact real or genuine.

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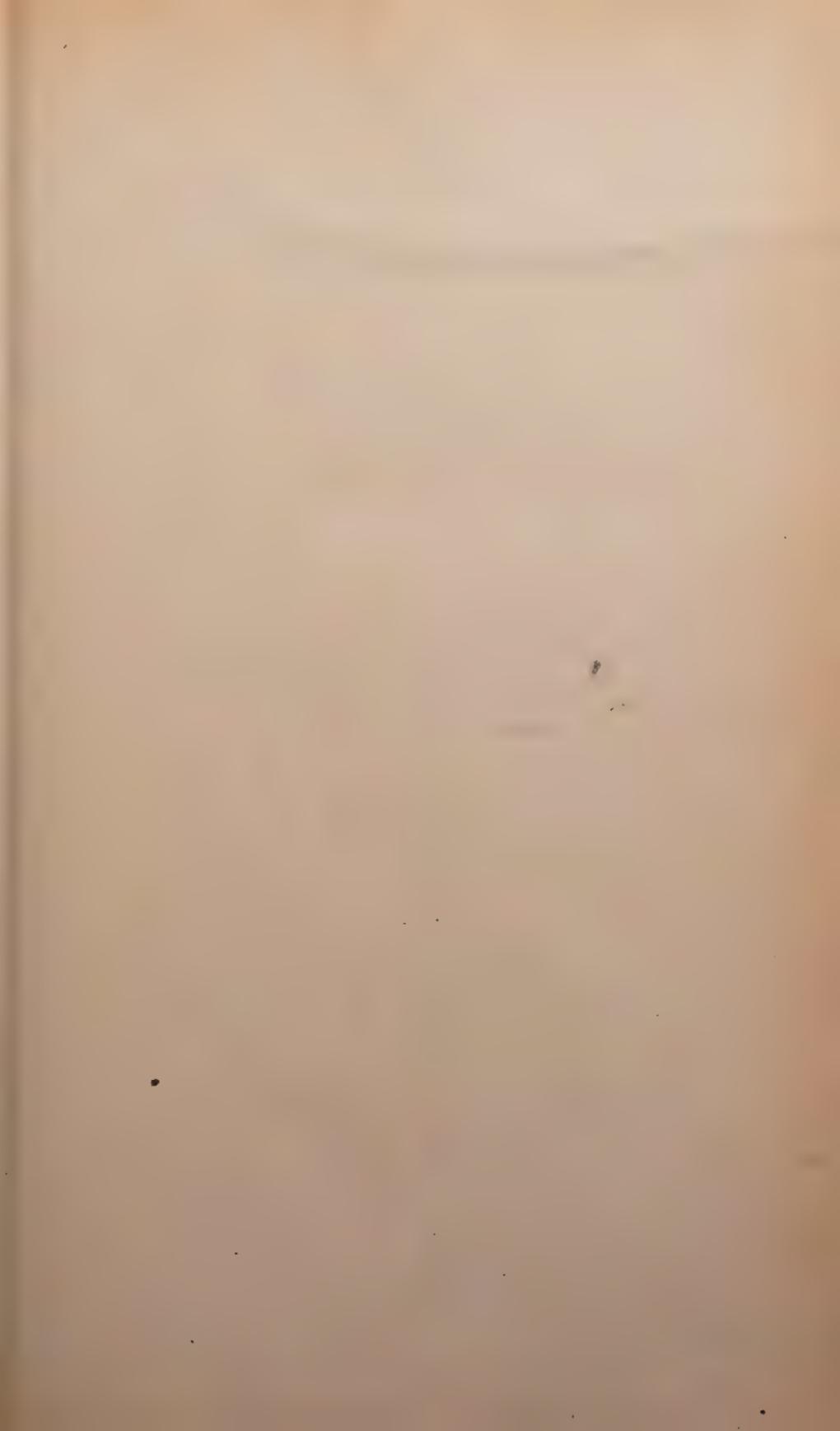
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